

Law Enforcement Palms Springs South Coast BLM (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700425

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs- South Coast Field Office (PSSCFO) manages approximately 1.65 million acres of public land, extending from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean, and south to the Mexican border. Law Enforcement Officers are responsible for public safety and protection of natural resources across five distinctively different areas of Southern California: Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert, South Coast, California Desert Conservation Area, Santa Rosa and the San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Public lands in the PSSCFO management area lie within California's most densely populated urban areas, including Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties. The PSSCFO is situated between two BLM field offices that manage large open OHV recreation areas including Johnson Valley, Dumont Dunes, and Imperial Sand Dunes. An estimated 96,000 off-road vehicles are registered in Riverside County alone, ranking it the third highest in the state. An additional 150,000 off-road vehicles are registered in the surrounding counties. The field office provides an estimated 1.005 million acres of riding area and over 1,500 miles of designated OHV trails. RIMS data indicates that 1,101,953 recreation visitors and 814,550 acres impacted limited/ designated routes of use the BLM public lands in the Palm Springs Field Office lands.

The PSSC FO has established the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area east of Indio for OHV recreational riding and travel in the diverse terrain around the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains. Other important travel destinations are the Corn Springs Camping Area, Red Cloud, Drop 31, touring opportunities along the Bradshaw Trail and other areas.

Urban expansion is continually encroaching into remaining open spaces. Due to accelerated population growth and expanding community development in Southern California, public lands, which form the basis for much of the remaining open space in the region, have become the primary source for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. While the vast majority of OHV riders are responsible in their actions, the high demand for off road recreational areas in this region has lead to an increase in irresponsible OHV use. The need for enforcement of laws and regulations, as well as public education and public assistance during weekends and holidays continues to increase, putting a serious burden on the PSSCFO Law Enforcement program. Recognizing the increase in recreational OHV use and the associated needs to provide public assistance, enforcement, and education, patrol staff was recently increased from five to ten law enforcement officers. This will help increase public contact and compliance, assistance and educational opportunities in the areas impacted by heavy OHV use.

The goal of the PSSCFO Law Enforcement Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) program is to increase BLM presence in recreational areas throughout the field office, while promoting safe and legal OHV recreational use on public lands. Through close coordination and partnerships with other local law enforcement agencies, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) OHV Task Force, and through development of outreach and educational programs, PSSCFO Law Enforcement continues to enhance OHV safety and compliance on public lands.

If successful, additional funding made available through the OHMVR grant will allow the Law Enforcement Program to:

1. Reduce OHV encroachment into wilderness, closed areas, and private property. Palm Springs Rangers routinely conduct wilderness checks; patrol the boundaries of closed areas such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACEC), Preserves, Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA), and private property.
2. Protect natural resources from damage or reduce damage of natural resources through proactive law enforcement and education outreach efforts. Schedule Rangers to patrol the five highly diverse areas within the Palm Springs Field Office on a more frequent basis.
3. Reduce OHV state and federal law violations and increase regulation awareness within Palm Springs Field Office.
4. Provide additional patrols along the California side of the Colorado River Corridor on lands administered by the Arizona BLM. Includes sensitive cultural areas such as the Blythe Intaglios and the Big Maria Mountains wilderness boundaries.

BLM is a member of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) OHV Task Force in partnership projects to enhance compliance through signing, outreach, and educational efforts. Rangers understand the pleasure of riding as well as the landscape of their patrol areas and are aware of the popular riding areas. These areas attract the largest level of OHV use, and subsequently receive the majority of Law Enforcement Projects. Grant funds help supplement federal funds that currently supporting law enforcement efforts in these areas.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

BLM, PSSCFO Law Enforcement Officers patrol 1.65 million acres of public lands extending from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border. These public lands are adjacent to California's most densely populated urban areas and include BLM-managed lands in Riverside County, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, and San Diego counties. The PSSCFO also provides assistance with patrols along the Colorado River Corridor on lands administered by the Arizona BLM.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Protection of the natural resources on public lands is one of the primary functions of the BLM law enforcement program. Due to the extensive damage that can be caused by irresponsible OHV use, management of legal and illegal riding has become one of the main priorities for the field office. To provide adequate law enforcement coverage, rangers are scheduled to work four-ten hour days. Rangers are scheduled to provide coverage seven days a week working Monday through Sunday. This provides continual coverage and public assistance. In general, approximately eighty percent of a Ranger's patrol time is spent dealing with OHV issues.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

The PSSCFO law enforcement program is currently staffed with 9 Rangers and one vacant position. All Rangers are tasked with performing OHV responsibilities as part of their regular duties. Successful funding from the OHMVR division will allow time for additional patrol of wilderness boundaries, cultural sites and for public contact in high use areas in vehicles and on ATV's.

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1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Since the field office is located near several major metropolitan areas, incursions into sensitive area are a serious issue. PSSCFO manages eleven Wilderness Areas with a total of 624,913 acres, three Wilderness Study Areas with total of 18,616 acres, and ten Areas of Critical Environmental Concern with approximately 91,471 acres. Several areas close to urban interfaces have been closed to OHV use to due conflicts with special management purposes, including Windy Point, Beauty Mountain, Oak Mountain, Coachella Preserve, and Indio Hills. Much of the eastern section of the field office is rich with archaeological and historical sites from Native Americans, miners, and military activities that are easily impacted by irresponsible OHV use. Areas such as Drop 31 near the Mecca Hills pose serious public safety issues to due the high numbers of OHV riders in a confined area with difficult and remote access for Rangers and medical response. Other sensitive areas include the Blythe Intaglios and Dos Palmas Oasis.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

Funding from OHMVR increases the opportunities for Rangers to provide public contact services regarding education, assistance, monitoring and enforcement actions. Of primary importance, Rangers:

1. Provide invaluable first hand information on the area to local and visiting recreational users.
2. Provide informational brochures to riders they contact in the field while on patrol, including information on OHV safety, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly programs.
3. Inform the public about becoming good stewards to the land and about impacts caused by irresponsible OHV use in areas closed to riding.
4. Maintain an information booth at the Blythe Chamber of Commerce for out of state visitors.
5. Provide presentations to elementary, high school and college students on the value of public lands.
6. Provide public assistance to those in trouble or to visitors that are having conflicts with other users or activities.
7. Help keep riding areas open that might otherwise be closed off to the public for administrative reasons.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

BLM maintains a working relationship with San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties; the cities of Blythe, Indio, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, and Coachella; and will often team up with their officers while patrolling OHV areas. BLM maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with Riverside County and thier Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team (ROVE) to address illegal riding on public and private lands. Rangers provide mutual assistance with the Coachella Valley Association of Goverments OHV Task Force which provides enforcement in riding areas as well as educational activities at fairs and parades in the valley. BLM and Riverside Sheriff department have produce an OHV map and brochure of Riverside County that shows all open routes for OHV riders along with information about OHV safety.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit?
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

The PSSCFO has not had any special recreation permit events that require the applicant to pay for law enforcement patrols during the event. Each Ranger will usually attend an event in their sector along with the outdoor recreation planner to maintain a BLM presence and provide information at no cost to the applicant.

- 5.

The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

The PSSCFO, LE Division maintains an OHV Vehicle Trainer, who provides the ATI Safety Training for BLM staff and other local law enforcement officers. The trainer also incorporates the Tread Lightly land ethics throughout the course. The BLM National Training Center provides several on-line ATV safety training courses that must be completed prior to taking the ATI Safety Training course, plus one classroom component for advanced safety officers. All Rangers are required to attend an 18 weeks long Federal Law Enforcement Training Center course where they receive natural and cultural resource law enforcement training, which emphasizes the Archeological Resource Protection Act. In addition, lands and resource staff work with the officers on a daily basis regarding restoration activities, wilderness patrol, and OHV recreation issues. All Rangers are encouraged to attend OHV workshops, public hearings or events as time permits, to stay informed of current issues or concerns the OHV community may have.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
PSSCFO does not manage recreational facilities.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:				Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office				
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement Palms Springs South Coast BLM (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-13-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs- South Coast Field Office (PSSCFO) manages approximately 1.65 million acres of public land, extending from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean, and south to the Mexican border. Law Enforcement Officers are responsible for public safety and protection of natural resources across five distinctively different areas of Southern California: Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert, South Coast, California Desert Conservation Area, Santa Rosa and the San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Public lands in the PSSCFO management area lie within California's most densely populated urban areas, including Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties. The PSSCFO is situated between two BLM field offices that manage large open OHV recreation areas including Johnson Valley, Dumont Dunes, and Imperial Sand Dunes. An estimated 96,000 off-road vehicles are registered in Riverside County alone, ranking it the third highest in the state. An additional 150,000 off-road vehicles are registered in the surrounding counties. The field office provides an estimated 1.005 million acres of riding area and over 1,500 miles of designated OHV trails. RIMS data indicates that 1,101,953 recreation visitors and 814,550 acres impacted limited/ designated routes of use the BLM public lands in the Palm Springs Field Office lands.</p> <p>The PSSC FO has established the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area east of Indio for OHV recreational riding and travel in the diverse terrain around the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains. Other important travel destinations are the Corn Springs Camping Area, Red Cloud, Drop 31, touring opportunities along the Bradshaw Trail and other areas.</p> <p>Urban expansion is continually encroaching into remaining open spaces. Due to accelerated population growth and expanding community development in Southern California, public lands, which form the basis for much of the remaining open space in the region, have become the primary source for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. While the vast majority of OHV riders are responsible in their actions, the high demand for off road recreational areas in this region has lead to an increase in irresponsible OHV use. The need for enforcement of laws and regulations, as well as public education and public assistance during weekends and holidays continues to increase, putting a serious burden on the PSSCFO Law Enforcement program. Recognizing the increase in recreational OHV use and the associated needs to provide public assistance, enforcement, and education, patrol staff was recently increased from five to ten law enforcement officers. This will help increase public contact and compliance, assistance and educational opportunities in the areas impacted by heavy OHV use.</p> <p>The goal of the PSSCFO Law Enforcement Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) program is to increase BLM presence in recreational areas throughout the field office, while promoting safe and legal OHV recreational use on public lands. Through close coordination and partnerships with other local law enforcement agencies, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) OHV Task Force, and through development of outreach and educational programs, PSSCFO Law Enforcement continues to enhance OHV safety and compliance on public lands.</p> <p>If successful, additional funding made available through the OHMVR grant will allow the Law Enforcement Program to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce OHV encroachment into wilderness, closed areas, and private property. Palm Springs Rangers routinely conduct wilderness checks; patrol the 				

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
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	<p>boundaries of closed areas such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACEC), Preserves, Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA), and private property.</p> <p>2. Protect natural resources from damage or reduce damage of natural resources through proactive law enforcement and education outreach efforts. Schedule Rangers to patrol the five highly diverse areas within the Palm Springs Field Office on a more frequent basis.</p> <p>3. Reduce OHV state and federal law violations and increase regulation awareness within Palm Springs Field Office.</p> <p>4. Provide additional patrols along the California side of the Colorado River Corridor on lands administered by the Arizona BLM. Includes sensitive cultural areas such as the Blythe Intaglios and the Big Maria Mountains wilderness boundaries.</p> <p>BLM is a member of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) OHV Task Force in partnership projects to enhance compliance through signing, outreach, and educational efforts. Rangers understand the pleasure of riding as well as the landscape of their patrol areas and are aware of the popular riding areas. These areas attract the largest level of OHV use, and subsequently receive the majority of Law Enforcement Projects. Grant funds help supplement federal funds that currently supporting law enforcement efforts in these areas.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Supervisor	1040.000	68.000	HRS	14,000.00	56,720.00	70,720.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1040.000	54.000	HRS	13,000.00	43,160.00	56,160.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1664.000	51.000	HRS	27,864.00	57,000.00	84,864.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1664.000	57.000	HRS	25,848.00	69,000.00	94,848.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	520.000	40.000	HRS	11,800.00	9,000.00	20,800.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1040.000	39.000	HRS	24,040.00	16,520.00	40,560.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1664.000	50.000	HRS	33,200.00	50,000.00	83,200.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1664.000	47.000	HRS	24,808.00	53,400.00	78,208.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1040.000	47.000	HRS	24,880.00	24,000.00	48,880.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1040.000	47.000	HRS	20,880.00	28,000.00	48,880.00
	Other-GIS Specialist	120.000	47.000	HRS	0.00	5,640.00	5,640.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Staff				220,320.00	412,440.00	632,760.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Safety Equipment	10.000	500.000	EA	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
	Other-Mics Supplies	10.000	250.000	EA	2,000.00	500.00	2,500.00
	Other-UTV and Trailer	1.000	13180.000	EA	13,180.00	0.00	13,180.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				17,680.00	3,000.00	20,680.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Administrative Cost	1.000	12500.000	MISC	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00
	Total Program Expenses				250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement Palms Springs South Coast BLM (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	220,320.00	412,440.00	632,760.00	The GIS specialist time will serve to prepare maps for law enforcement patrols, identify location of public lands and incident locations for enforcement purposes, make corrections to errors found in public land boundaries and designated routes, map and identify location of areas off limits to OHV travel including wilderness, areas of special concern, and preserves.
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	17,680.00	3,000.00	20,680.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00	
Total Program Expenses		250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		250,500.00	415,440.00	665,940.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment